

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed on October 18, 2007. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-22 and 25-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Song (U.S. 5,949,999) in view of Selkirk (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2002/0087673) in view of Briegs (U.S. 7,054,823) and further in view of Hartel (U.S. Patent Application Pub. 2003/0028549). The applicant disagrees with these rejections for the same reasons set forth in the previous office action response. However, in accordance with the suggestions set forth in paragraph 5 of the Final Office Action, claim 1 has been further amended to more actively recite the limitations relating to the linking metadata.

The applicant submits that the amendment to claim 1 further distinguishes the claim from the cited prior art and puts the claim in condition for allowance. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest a plurality of graphical user interfaces for collecting data relating to the biomedical development phases, wherein the plurality of graphical user interfaces are specific to different ones of the biomedical development phases and wherein the plurality of graphical user interfaces are configured to collect patient identification metadata and/or study identification metadata for each of the biodevelopment phases such that the patient identification metadata or the study identification metadata may be used as linking data to indicate how the collected data interrelates with other data collected during the subsequent biomedical development phase. Amended claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct from the cited references and is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4-7, 9-22 and 15-34 depend from claim 1 and are thus also in condition for allowance.

In addition, new dependent claims 37 and 38 have been added. These claims relate to linking between the data collected during the plurality of biomedical development phases and data in a genomic data warehouse. Examples of this are described in the specification with reference to Figs. 16-19. The applicant submits that claims 37 and 38 further distinguish over the cited prior art and are also in condition for allowance.

For at least these reasons, the patent owner submits that independent claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-22, 25-34, 37 and 38 are in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Sauer', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop and a small flourish at the end.

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